

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7666

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBSSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO RENEWAL OF UNEF MANDATE

1. ISRAELIS HAVE RECEIVED NEWS OF EGYPTAIN AGREEMENT TO EXTENSION OF UNEF MANDTE WITH MIXTURE OF SATISFACTION ANDALMOST BLASE MATTER-OF-FACTNESS. DOMINANT ASSUMPTIONHERE IN LAST SEVERAL DAYS WAS THAT SADAT HAD CREATED MINI-CRISIS TO PRESSURE GOI ONINTERIM AGREEMENT BUT THE EGYPTAIN ASSENT TO RENEWAL OF MANDATE WAS VIRTUALLY FOREGONE CONCLUSION. BY NOW, ISRAELIS HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO WHAT THEY REGARD AS PERIODIC EXERCISE BY EGYPT AND/OR SYRIA TO USEMANDATE DEADLINES AS LEVERAGE ON PACE OF NEGOTIATONS.

2. EVEN BEFOE GOE DECISION WAS KNOWN, FOREIGN MINISTERALLON MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN KNESSET
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JULY23: QUOTE I DO NOT RECOMMEND GETTING OVER-EXCITED

BY THE EGYPTAIN MOVE OF THE 15TH. ISRAEL'S SECURITY DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE U.N. FORCE IN THE BUFFER ZONE... OUR SECURITY IS BASED ON OUR OWN FORCES...THE U.N. FORCE IS DESIGNED ONLY TO ENSURE THE CHARACTER AND STATUS OF THE BUFFER ZONE, WHICH IS PRESCRIBED IN THE SEPARATION-OF-FORCES AGREEMENT. AND IF EGYPT BELIEVES THAT BY THREATENING THE PRESENCE OF THE U.N. FORCE IT WILL FRIGHTEN US, OR SUCCEED IN SECURING FROM US CONCESSIONS WHICH WE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO MAKE UNDER OTHER CONDITIONS--IT IS SADLY MISTAKEN. WHATEVER WE MAY BE PREPARED TO CONCEDE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR SHARE IN THE PEACE EFFORTS - WE SHALL CONCEDE WITHOUT THREATS, WITHOUT PRESSURES, AND WITHOUT MANOEUVERS...AND WHATEVER WE CANNOT CONCEDE--WE SHALL NOT CONCEDE, EVEN UNDER THREATS OR PRESSURES. THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE. END QUOTE.

3. IN RATHER TYPICAL ANALYSIS, HAARETZ MILITARY CORRESPONDENT TOLD US TODAY THAT HE HAD BEEN CERTAIN OF OUTCOME. GOE ASSENT WAS RESULT OF US PRESSURE ON EGYPT AND FIRMNESS OF ISRAELI POSITION. IN ADDITION, UNSC HAS GIVEN SADAT TANGIBLE REWARD IN FORM OF NEW RESOLUTION ON ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE WHICH EGYPT CAN INTERPRET AS SUPPORTING ITS DEMANDS. ON ANOTHER TACK, QUITE A FEW ISRAELIS HAVE EXPRESSED CRITICAL VIEW IN SPEAKING TO US, THAT RABIN MADE SERIOUS MISTAKE BY HIS SPONTANEOUS REMARK UPON RETURNING FROM BOON RE POSSIBILITY THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT GO ON FOR SIX MONTHS OR YEAR, THUS UN-NECESSARILY PROVIDING SADAT WITH JUSTIFICATION FOR CREATING MINI-CRISIS OVER MANDATE RENEWAL.

4. PRESS REACTIONS ARE MIXED, REFLECTING DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW AS TO WHETHER SADAT'S JULY 22 SPEECH WAS A STEP BACKWARDS AND WHETHER HE INDEED WANTS TO ATTAIN INTERIM AGREEMENT OR NOT. ON UPBEAT NOTE, MAPAM'S AL HAMISHMAR VIEWS MANDATE EXTENSION AS SIGN OF SADAT'S INTENTION TO BRING NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IN CALMER ATMOSPHERE. HAARETZ EDITORIAL COMMENT IS THAT SADAT HAS SHOWN HIMSELF IN RECENT DAYS TO BE CONSUMMATE "REALIST-NATIONALIST POLITICAN" WHO HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAREFULLY KEPT OPEN BOTH NEGOTIATING AND MILITARY OPTIONS. FACT THAT EGYPT RENEWED MANDATE AND DID NOT REJECT OUT-RIGHT LATEST ISRAELI PROPOSALS SHOWS THAT IT IS STILL INTERESTED IN INTERIM AGREEMENT. RIGHT-WING PRESS ON OTHER HAND IS UNCONVINCED. HATZOFE, FOR INSTANCE DESCRIBES "BEHAVIOR PATTERN" OF EGYPTIAN LEADERS AS "NOT EXACTLY CONFIDENCE INSPIRING", UNDERMINING "REMNANT OF TRUST," AND VIEWS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AS UNCONDUCTIVE

TO FURTHER NEGOTIATING EFFORTS.
TOON

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